

# Slurs, Key Signatures (Gr. 4)

Content Area: **Instrumental Music**  
Course(s): **Instrumental Music**  
Time Period: **Week 23**  
Length: **5 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Students will learn to demonstrate playing slurs and deciphering key signatures.

## Standards

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VPA.3-5.1.1.5.B.2	Demonstrate the basic concepts of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and melodic and harmonic progressions, and differentiate basic structures.
VPA.3-5.1.3.5.B.1	Sing or play music from complex notation, using notation systems in treble and bass clef, mixed meter, and compound meter.
VPA.3-5.1.3.5.B.4	Decode how the elements of music are used to achieve unity and variety, tension and release, and balance in musical compositions.
VPA.3-5.1.4.5.B.2	Use evaluative tools, such as rubrics, for self-assessment and to appraise the objectivity of critiques by peers.

## Essential Questions

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1) How are key signatures, sharps and flats related, and how can you apply the understanding of the relationship of these elements to other topics of music?

## Application of Knowledge and Skills...

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## Students will know that...

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- 1. how to play a slur.
- 2. what a key signature is.
- 3. how sharps and flats affect a given note.

## **Students will be skilled at...**

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- A) demonstrate the correct articulation to perform a slur correctly.
- B) demonstrate deciphering the key signature correctly to play the correct pitches within an example.
- C) demonstrate playing a correct pitch based on the knowledge of how sharps and flats function.

## **Assessments**

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- Unit Test Summative: Exhibition Students will perform musical selections containing slurs and key signatures. 1.1.5.B2 1.3.5.B1 1.3.5.B4 1.4.5.B2
- Key Signature Example Formative: Exhibition Students will play through examples using key signatures instead of accidentals. 1.1.5.B2 1.3.5.B1 1.3.5.B4 1.4.5.B2
- Slur Examples Formative: Exhibition Students will play examples containing slurs, especially an excerpt from "Symphony No. 1" by Brahms. 1.1.5.B2 1.3.5.B1 1.3.5.B4 1.4.5.B2
- What are Key Signatures? Diagnostic: Other written assessments Students will define key signatures. 1.1.5.B2
- What are slurs? Diagnostic: Other written assessments Students attempt to define slurs based on prior knowledge of articulation. 1.1.5.B2 1.4.5.B2

## **Activities**

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- "Symphony No. 1" (Brahms)
- Pre-Assessment: What are key signatures?
- "There's Music in the Air" - George F. Root (uses key signature)

## **Activities to Differentiate Instruction**

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- Tempo Variation - Students will play at slower tempo, written tempo, or faster tempo based on ability.
- Varied length of demonstrated examples - A student experiencing difficulty will play a segment of an example, while a student who excels will play more challenging examples.
- Students experiencing difficulty with slurring will tongue the notes and learn the songs; then incorporate the slurs. Students showing mastery of the slur may attempt challenging articulation exercises.

## **Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction**

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Sound production and Pitch (Vocal Music, Science)

Note Reading (Vocal Music)

Note Values (Vocal Music, Math)

## **Resources**

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Standard of Excellence, Book 1

*Neil A. Kjos Music Company*